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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: **Christoph Seidel, et al.**

Serial No.: **Divisional of Serial No. 08/892,704**

Filed: **Concurrently herewith**

For: **METHOD FOR DETERMINING EARLY HCV SEROCONVERSION**

Group Art Unit: **To be Assigned**

Examiner: **To be Assigned**

June 28, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Prior to "Description" as -- Related Applications. This application is a divisional of Serial No. 08/892,704, filed September 15, 1997, <sup>US Pat. No. 6,065,799</sup> which is a divisional of Serial No. 08/511,759 filed August 7, 1995, <sup>US Pat. No. 6,096,319</sup> --.

Page 1, line: after "931" add -- incorporated by reference --;

line 27: delete "the"; change "of" to -- encoded by --.

Page 2, line 22: after "high" add -- degree of --;

line 23: delete "of the test";

line 28: change "was" to -- is --;

line 29: change "from" to -- encoded by --.

Page 3, line 5: delete "the";

line 9: change "," to -- . More preferably they contain amino acids --;

line 10: delete "a";

line 12: change "." to -- incorporate by reference --;